

Chapter Nine

Tribal Government

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Photo by Caroline Yang, Minnesota Public Radio News

Drummers play a song in Pipestone, Minnesota, on August 17, 2012, to celebrate the homecoming of the Dakota people back to Minnesota after 150 years of exile. On behalf of Gov. Mark Dayton, Minnesota Secretary of State Mark Ritchie read a letter repudiating Gov. Alexander Ramsey's words calling for the extermination of the Dakota in 1862, and declared August 17 as a day of remembrance and reconciliation. All national and state flags were flown at half-staff from sunrise to sunset.

Chapter Nine Tribal Government

MINNESOTA'S FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBES

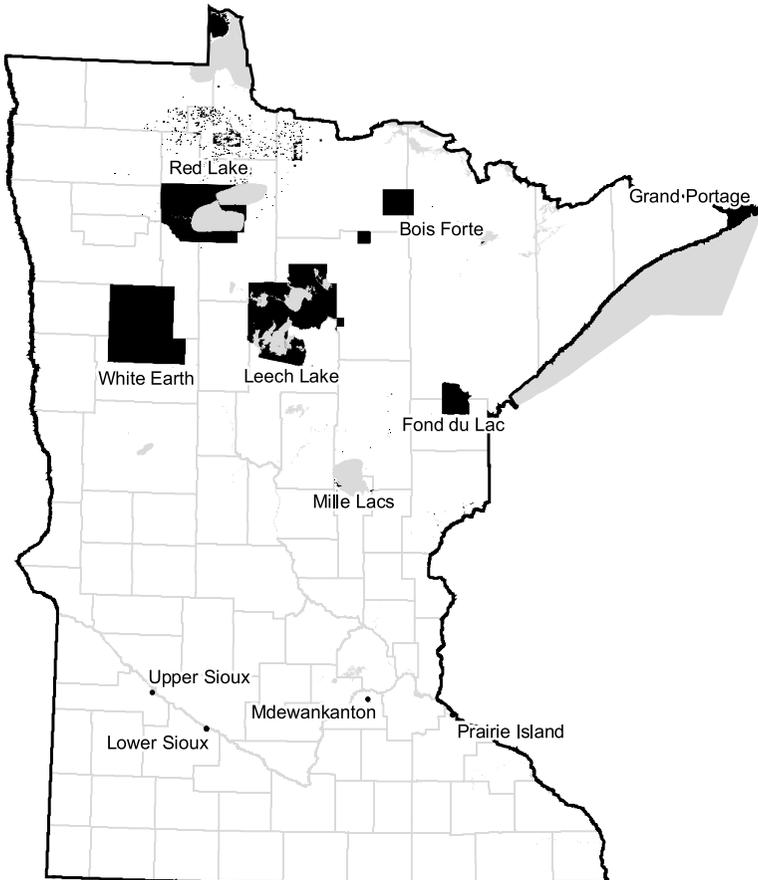
Federally recognized American Indian tribes are ones that were in existence, or evolved as a successor to a tribe that was in existence, before anyone else inhabited the United States. Tribes exist in a “domestic dependent nation status” and have a government-to-government relationship with the United States. They possess certain inherent rights of self-government and are entitled to certain federal benefits, services and protections.

There are 11 federally recognized American Indian tribes with reservations throughout Minnesota. Seven of these are Anishinaabe (Chippewa, Ojibwe) and four are Dakota (Sioux).

The seven communities of Grand Portage, Bois Forte, Red Lake, White Earth, Leech Lake, Fond du Lac and Mille Lacs comprise the Anishinaabe reservations. These reservations are located throughout northern Minnesota from the central lakes region of the state to the northeastern tip.

In the southern region of the state there are four Dakota reservations: Shakopee Mdewakanton, Prairie Island, Lower Sioux and Upper Sioux. Like the reservations in northern Minnesota, these areas of land were set aside by United States government treaties.

Minnesota Indian Reservations



MINNESOTA'S FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBES



Bois Forte Band of Chippewa-Nett Lake
5344 Lakeshore Dr., Nett Lake 55772
Phone: (800) 221-8129 **Fax:** (218) 757-3312

Bois Forte Band of Chippewa-Vermillion
1610 Farm Road South, Tower 55790
Phone: (218) 753-4905 **Fax:** (218) 753-4053
Email: kevin.leecy@boisforte-nsn.gov
Website: www.boisforte.com
Tribal Chair: Kevin Leecy



Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
1720 Big Lake Rd., Cloquet 55720
Phone: (218) 879-4593
Website: www.fdlrez.com
Tribal Chair: Karen R. Diver



Grand Portage Band of Chippewa
P.O. Box 428, Grand Portage 55605
Phone: (218) 475-2277
Email: Norman@grandportage.com
Website: www.grandportage.com
Tribal Chair: Norman Deschampe



Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
115 6th St. N.W., Cass Lake 56633
Phone: (218) 335-8200 **Fax:** (218) 335-8309
Website: www.llojibwe.com
Chairwoman: Carri Jones



Lower Sioux Community
P.O. Box 308, 39527 Res. Hwy. 1, Morton 56283
Phone: (507) 697-6185 **Fax:** (507) 697-8617
Website: www.lowerSioux.com
Tribal President: Denny Prescott



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
Government Center, 43408 Oodena Dr., Onamia 56359
Phone: (320) 532-4181
Website: www.millelacsOjibwe.org
Tribal Chief Executive: Melanie Benjamin



Prairie Island Indian Community
5636 Sturgeon Lake Rd., Welch 55089
Phone: (800) 554-5473 **Fax:** (651) 385-4180
Email: rjohnson@piic.org
Website: www.prairieisland.org
Tribal President: Johnny Johnson

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Red Lake Band of Ojibwe
Box 550, Red Lake 56671
Phone: (218) 679-3341 **Fax:** (218) 679-3378
Email: floydjourdain@hotmail.com
Tribal Chair: Floyd "Buck" Jourdain



Shakopee-Mdewakanton Sioux (Dakota) Community
2330 Sioux Tr. N.W., Prior Lake 55372
Phone: (952) 445-8900
Website: www.shakopeedakota.org
Tribal Chair: Charlie Vig



Upper Sioux Community Pezihutazizi Oyate
Box 147, 5722 Travers Lane, Granite Falls 56241
Phone: (320) 564-3853
Email: kevinj@uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov
Website: www.uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov
Tribal Chair: Kevin Jensvold



White Earth Band of Ojibwe
Box 418, White Earth 56591
Phone: (218) 983-3285
Website: www.whiteearth.com
Tribal Chair: Erma Vizenor

STATE TRIBAL-RELATED AGENCIES

AMERICAN INDIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minnesota Department of Human Services, 540 Cedar St., St. Paul 55101 **Phone:** (651) 431-2461

Law provides: The 17-member council provides advice on policies, goals, and the operation of chemical health program services. (*Minnesota Statutes*, 254A.035, Subd. 2)

AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL

113 2nd Street N.W., Suite 110A, Bemidji 56601; 161 St. Anthony Ave., Suite 919, St. Paul 55103

Phone: (651) 296-0041 **Website:** www.indianaffairs.state.mn.us

Law provides: The council includes representatives from Minnesota's 11 tribal governments and two elected members representing Minnesota residents enrolled in non-Minnesota Indian reservations to advise the governor, Legislature, and state agencies regarding policies, programs and services affecting Indian citizens, and to create public awareness of their needs. The law also provides for an advisory council on urban Indians appointed by the council and consisting of five members from the vicinity of Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth. (*Minnesota Statutes*, 3.922)

Executive Director: Annamarie Hill

AMERICAN INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ADVISORY COUNCIL

444 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul 55155 **Phone:** (651) 431-4675

Email: dhs.child.safety-permanency@state.mn.us

Law provides: The 17-member council assists the commissioner of Human Services in formulating policies and procedures relating to Indian child welfare services. (*Minnesota Statutes*, 260.835)

OMBUDSPERSON FOR INDIAN FAMILIES

1450 Energy Park Dr., Ste 106, St. Paul 55108

Phone: (651) 643-2523

Law provides: The ombudsperson shall monitor agency compliance with all laws governing child protection and placement, as they impact Indian children through work with the courts, court officials, policy makers, service providers, social workers, and guardians ad litem. The ombudsperson has the authority to investigate decisions or acts, and other matters of an agency, program or facility via complaints, systems and personnel, or upon personal initiative.

(*Minnesota Statutes*, 257.0755)

URBAN INDIAN AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD

113 N.W. 2nd St., Bemidji 56601 **Phone:** (215) 755-3825

Law provides: The council consisting of six Indians enrolled in Minnesota-based tribes and at least one member shall reside in the vicinity of Minneapolis, St. Paul, Bemidji or Duluth, advises the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council board of directors on the concerns of Minnesota Indians who reside in the urban areas of the state. (*Minnesota Statutes*, 3.922, Subd. 8)